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marking had been adopted. Should the Directors of the Bank chuse to adopt such a measure for the security of the Bank & the Public against accomplished villains, I will inform you from whom to procure the two liquors, the General having given me the name of the gentleman; but how they are made the General himself does not know.

Your humble Servant

WILLIAM GORDON.

I have written in great haste, that I might not miss of the opportunity of sending the above. The proposal must not be matter of notoriety, but to the Directors.

Honble JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq.

The President reported from the Standing Committee, that an application had been received from ladies connected with the approaching Fair for the Sanitary Commission, for the use of certain treasures belonging to the cabinet of this Society. It was unanimously ordered, that the Standing Committee be instructed to allow such articles as they may select, to be placed in the charge of the applicants for exhibition at the Fair.

JANUARY MEETING. — 1864.

A stated meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, Jan. 14, at eleven, A.M.; the President, the Hon. R. C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

Donations were announced from the American Anti-quarian Society; the Boston Young Men's Christian Association; the Library of Congress; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology

and Natural History; the Waltham Union League; Mr. George Arnold; Samuel Batchelder, Esq.; Clement H. Hill, Esq.; John S. Holmes, Esq.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; James S. Loring, Esq.; Rev. William S. Perry; George B. Reed, Esq.; the publishers of the "Round Table;" and from Messrs. Amory, Barry, Bartlet, Dana, Davis, Deane, Holland, Livermore, Robbins (C.), Savage, Ticknor, Webb, Willard, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President called the attention of members to a volume then lying upon the table, remarking as follows:—

We have on our table this morning the noble volume which has recently been published in commemoration of the life and writings of the lamented Prescott. It is presented to us by its accomplished author, Mr. Ticknor; who remarks in his Prefatory Notice, alluding to the circumstances under which it was written, "That the Massachusetts Historical Society, who early did me the honor of directing me to prepare a notice of their lamented associate, such as it is customary to insert in their official Proceedings, have been content to accept the present Memoir as a substitute."

We shall all concur heartily in this statement, and shall have cause for a stronger emotion than contentment, if our designation of Mr. Ticknor for this service conduced in any degree to the production of so worthy and beautiful a memorial of one whom we all admired and loved.

It was then *voted*, That the Massachusetts Historical Society renewedly express their pleasure in accepting the "Life of William Hickling Prescott by George Ticknor," as this day laid on the table in a noble volume presented to their library by its accomplished author,

as a substitute for the Memoir which Mr. Ticknor had been requested to prepare for their official Proceedings.

The President also laid upon the table a Memoir of Rev. James Brodhead, D.D., presented by his son, John Romeyn Brodhead, LL.D., of New York, one of our Corresponding Members.

The President also presented a brief memoir of one "whose name," he said, "must not be lost to the annals of New England, — Major Sidney Coolidge, of the United-States Army, — whose brilliant career and melancholy fate are still fresh in all our minds."

The President remarked, that he took this opportunity of mentioning in a single word, that the name of the Rev. Benjamin Tappan, D.D., one of the oldest among our Honorary and Corresponding Members, henceforth disappears from our roll. Born in Massachusetts, and graduated at Harvard, he became a citizen of Maine on its separation from the parent State; and was for nearly fifty years a devoted minister of the gospel, at Augusta, where he died on the 22d of December last, at seventy-eight years of age. His praise is in all the churches of his own and of other denominations, and he has left an enviable and enduring memory in the hearts of all who knew him.

The thanks of the Society were voted to our associate, Dr. Holland, for a complete set of his works, in beautiful binding, recently presented by him to the library.

The President read a note from J. W. Paige, Esq., offering to the Society's acceptance the Records of the Assistant Fire Society of Boston, instituted Dec. 2,

1783. *Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Paige for this interesting relic.

The President read a note from Mr. Everett, accompanying, and presenting to the Society, on behalf of J. Carson Brevoort, Esq., of Brooklyn, N.Y., a photograph from the original miniature likeness of General Washington, taken by Madame de Brienne, sister of Count de Moustier, minister from France to the United States in 1788. Washington sat to Madame de Brienne on the 3d October, 1789. She sent a copy of the likeness to General Washington, who gave it to the lady of General Stewart. It afterwards came into the possession of Dr. Hosack, of New York, by whose family the portrait is now preserved, with General Washington's presentation inscription on its back.

(See Diary of Washington from Oct. 1, 1789, to March 10, 1790, pages 12 and 18, as printed in New York, 1858.)

The following inscription, in the handwriting of Washington, is on the back of the original picture:—

“Not for the representation or the value, but because it is the production of a fair lady, the President takes the liberty of presenting the enclosed, with his best regards, to Mrs. Stewart, praying her acceptance of it.

“WEDNESDAY 16th Mar. 1795.”

Rev. Nicholas Hoppin, D.D., of Cambridge, was elected a Resident Member, and Major-General John A. Dix, of New York, an Honorary Member, of the Society.

The President nominated as a new Committee of Publication, agreeably to a vote of the Standing Committee, Messrs. Aspinwall, Ellis, Bartlet, and Sibley.

Mr. FOLSOM, from the Committee on purchasing Books

of Reference, reported that the Committee have leisurely expended in the most economical manner the amount placed at their disposal, and recommended the appropriation of an additional sum.

The report was accepted; and it was *Voted*, That the sum of fifty dollars be placed at the disposal of the same Committee for the same purpose.

Mr. LIVERMORE presented to the Society three copies of "The Book of Common Prayer," for "The Confederate States of America." These different editions vary only in size. All of them bear on the titlepage, as publisher, the name of J. W. Randolph, Richmond, Va., 1863. On the reverse of the title, it is found that they were printed in England, — "London: Printed by G. E. Eyre and W. Spottiswood." The text agrees generally with that of the Book of Common Prayer used in the United States, except in the prayers where Congress or the President is mentioned, when "the Confederate States" is substituted for "the United States."

In presenting these volumes, Mr. Livermore remarked, that, in the prayer to be used at sea, a singular error occurs, from the neglect of the editor to make the alteration necessary for the proposed use of the work. The prayer stands: "Be pleased to receive into Thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the fleet [or ship] in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto the United States of America, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions."

Mr. Livermore thought, that, when it is remembered

that the so-called Confederate States have no fleet or ships but those of pirates or privateers, the blunder of the editor is as amusing as it is striking.

MR. HORACE GRAY, Jun., remarked, that the earliest statute of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, "against piracy and robbing upon the sea," included under the crime of piracy "all treasons, felonies, robberies, murders, and *confederacies* in or upon the seas," as enumerated in the Provincial Statute of 8 William III. (1696), which he quoted from, "Ancient Charters and Laws" (ed. 1814), 296; saying that he had had occasion to compare this with the earlier editions, knowing it to be unsafe to rely upon the text of this.

As an instance of the inaccuracy of the "Ancient Charters," he referred to the first act of the Colony for keeping records of judgments, which was passed in September, 1639, and printed on page 43 of that volume. That act, as appears by the original record in the State House (now accurately printed in 1 Mass. Col. Rec., 275), began thus: "Whereas many judgments have been given in our courts, whereof *no* records are kept of the evidence & reasons." But "no" in the manuscript was read, by the compilers of the edition of 1814, "110," and, printed "one hundred and ten," thus making the great number of those already accumulated, instead of the want of any past records whatever, the reason for ordering judicial proceedings to be recorded for the future.

MR. LAWRENCE presented two cannon-balls and an iron scoop, found on Breed's Hill, which were dug up under his inspection at the time of the grading of the hill.

Mr. SIBLEY stated that there was in the library of Harvard College a copy of Milton's "Paradise Lost," in folio, printed at Glasgow in 1770, which was presented by "Mr. Brook Watson to Phillis Wheatley, London, July, 1773." At the bottom of the page on which the above is written is the following note, in the handwriting of Mr. Dudley L. Pickman: "This book was given by Brook Watson, formerly Lord Mayor of London, to Phillis Wheatley; and, after her death, was sold in payment of her husband's debts. It is now presented to the library of Harvard University at Cambridge, by Dudley L. Pickman of Salem, March, 1824."

Rev. SAMUEL OSGOOD, D.D., a Corresponding Member from New York, being present, at the call of the President made some interesting remarks in relation to the New-York Historical Society.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday Feb. 11, at eleven, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

Donations were announced from the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the Society of Antiquaries, London; the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History; the publishers of the "Round Table;" John Appleton, M.D.; William Appleton, Esq.; Rev. B. F. De Costa; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Hon. F. W. Lincoln; James S. Loring, Esq.; Mr. Frederick Müller;